

From: Dave Muse
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/15/01 1:55pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

to: Renata Hesse, Trial Attorney, Suite 1200, Antitrust Division,
Department of Justice, 601 D Street NW, Washington, DC 20530

Greetings,

As a long-time computer hobbyist (since about 1979) I have long lamented the slow but steady demise of choices in the computer operating system and computer applications market, brought about by Microsoft's increasing dominance.

Many users of computers are relatively new to computing, and cannot appreciate what can or should be different about this marketplace. But I had to watch, over the years, many excellent software products vanish by being forced out of business or bought up by Microsoft - and in most cases I did not feel that the competing Microsoft products were as good (in any way but marketing) as what was no longer there.

I am very disappointed at the proposed settlement supported by Microsoft and the DOJ. I believe it is full of the very sort of loopholes that Microsoft can enjoy exploiting to its advantage.

Where is the punishment for what Microsoft has been found guilty of? Do not make the issue into one of national security, or the strength of our economy; this is the time to fix the problem and get it behind us. The task will not become easier, indeed, much longer-term damage to our competitive marketplace could eventually result.

In my opinion, what consumers need, at a minimum, to be able to truly choose alternatives to Microsoft are:

-Both the Windows API and Microsoft document formats (MS Word, MS Excel, etc) must be made freely available. This will enable competitive products to view and edit documents created by Microsoft products., and to create programs that can run on Windows as well as Microsoft's applications do. Open standards benefit everyone except a monopolist.

-Microsoft networking protocols must be standardized by a standards body. This will prevent Microsoft from using their private, proprietary protocols to seize control of new applications used on the Internet. Again, open standards are in everyone's interest except Microsoft.

-Microsoft products should be provided only as extra-cost options on personal computers. I should always have the choice of whether or not I'm going to buy a Microsoft product.

Sincerely,

Dave Muse
200 Burt Ave
Jackson MI 49201
mrvideo@softhome.net